



NEWS RELEASE

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March 14, 2016

Man Convicted of Two Murders During Robbery Spree

A Los Angeles man was found guilty on Friday of a murderous two-week robbery spree in 2011 that left two men dead – one of them an MTV music coordinator, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

The jury of six women and six men deliberated about two days before finding Jabaar Vincent Thomas, 31, guilty of two counts of capital murder for the shotguns deaths of Marcelo Aragon and Gabriel Ben-Meir. Jurors found true the special circumstances of multiple murders and murders committed during a robbery.

The jury also convicted Thomas of multiple counts of second-degree robbery and attempted robbery and one count of felon in possession of a firearm with a prior. Jurors hung on one count of second-degree robbery.

The same jury returns Tuesday to begin the penalty phase of the trial in case BA384433. Prosecutors are seeking death for Thomas.

Deputy District Attorney John Mc Kinney with the Major Crimes Division is prosecuting the case.

The murders and robberies occurred in Mid-City Los Angeles, including Koreatown and the Wilshire section, between April 27 and May 10 of 2011. The first victim, Marcelo Aragon, 35, was killed on April 30, 2011, in the Pico-Union section between the Wilshire area and downtown Los Angeles.

Ben-Meir, 30, the MTV music coordinator, was returning home on May 8 after going grocery shopping. He was forced down on his knees and executed after parking his car outside his Wilshire area home. Mc Kinney said a baseball glove found near the victim's body had DNA that matched Thomas. Thomas was arrested in May 2011 and charged along with two accomplices, Destiny Young (dob 5/27/1981) and Richard Edward Anderson (dob 12/3/1977).

Young, who was Thomas's girlfriend, pleaded guilty to two counts of voluntary manslaughter, three counts of attempted robbery and three counts of second-degree robbery and is facing up to 25 years in state prison. She testified during the trial.

Anderson pleaded guilty to six counts of robbery and attempted robbery and is facing up to 15 years in state prison.

Young and Anderson are scheduled to be sentenced on March 30 in Department 102.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.